

Message Text

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15

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARA-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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R 202030Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8573

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, CU, CA

SUBJ: PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE CRITICISM OF TRUDEAU CUBA VISIT

REF: OTTAWA 185

1. TWO PROMINENT PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVES HAVE EXPRESSED STRONG AND PUBLIC DISAPPROVAL OF COMING TRUDEAU VISIT TO CUBA JAN 26. FORMER PM DIEFENBAKER REPORTEDLY SAID JAN 16 THAT TRUDEAU "STATE VISIT AT A TIME WHEN CUBAN TROOPS ARE FIGHTING ALONGSIDE THE USSR IN ANGOLA SHOCKS ME". HE ADDED, "AT A TIME LIKE THIS, FOR CANADA'S PRIME MINISTER TO BE VISITING CUBA ON AN OFFICIAL VISIT IS INEXCUSABLE. IT IS A PREPOSTEROUS DERELICTION OF THE PRINCIPLES FOR WHICH THIS COUNTRY STANDS".

2. ON NATIONWIDE TV TALKSHOW JAN 18, PC LEADERSHIP CANDIDATE JOHN FRASER SAID THAT CANADA SHOULD IDENTIFY WHO HER FRIENDS ABROAD ARE GOING TO BE AND STICK BY THEM. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE SAID, "WHY ARE WE GOING DOWN THERE TO BE SEEN SORT OF BOLSTERING THE CUBAN IMAGE AT A TIME WHEN OUR AMERICAN FRIENDS AND OTHER PEOPLE ALL AROUND THE WORLD ARE SO WORRIED ABOUT THE ESCALATION OF THE SITUATION IN ANGOLA?"

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3. COMMENT: WHILE COMMENTS SUCH AS ABOVE HARDLY

REPRESENT GROUNDSWELL OF NATIONAL INDIGNATION, THEY DID
RECEIVE RELATIVELY PROMINENT MEDIA PLAY. FURTHER,
INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT TRUDEAU VISIT TO CUBA SAME DAY
PARLIAMENT RESUMES AFTER SIX-WEEK RECESS. SAFE TO ASSUME
THAT OPPOSITION WILL HIT THIS ISSUE AT THAT DAY'S QUESTION
PERIOD., AND ON TRUDEAU'S NEXT APPEARANCE IN COMMONS.
JOHNSON

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